

To: Members of the House Health Policy Committee

From: Chris Mitchell, Senior Vice President, Advocacy
Paige Fults, Director, Advocacy

Date: Sept. 27, 2017

Re: Senate Bill 274 – Acute Pain Opioid Prescription Limitation

Position: Oppose

As a member of Gov. Snyder's Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Taskforce, the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) and its member hospitals are committed to helping address the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs while ensuring patients receive the most appropriate care and treatment for their individual healthcare needs.

The MHA is currently opposed to Senate Bill (SB) 274, sponsored by Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy). This bill would limit the amount and supply of opioids prescribed for acute pain treatment in patients to seven days, however, the healthcare industry is already moving in this direction and there is no need for the legislation. For example, retail pharmacy giant CVS recently announced that it will limit opioid prescriptions to seven days for certain conditions starting Feb. 1, 2018. This will include all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients. Consequently, the MHA has learned that health insurance companies are beginning to move in this direction as well. For instance, the largest health insurer in the Philadelphia area, Independence Blue Cross, has announced plans to limit the prescribing of opioids for acute pain in its network to five days.

In the event that SB 274 continues through the legislative process, the MHA recommends replacing the current bill language with language from a similar piece of legislation in Ohio. If a physician determines that the patient's pain is expected to persist for longer than seven days, the physician may prescribe for a longer period. However, the reason for exceeding prescription supply limits and for prescribing an opioid analgesic must be documented in the patient's medical record. The number of days of the prescription shall not exceed the amount required to treat the expected duration of the pain as noted.

The MHA will continue to work with the bill sponsor to ensure access to care and pain management needed by patients are available in the both the inpatient and outpatient settings. Please contact Paige Fults (pfalts@mha.org) at (517) 703-8616 at the MHA if you have further questions regarding SB 274.

Brian Peters, Chief Executive Officer